



MAINTAINING YOUR DEFENSIBLE SPACE **ROUTINE MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST**

In order to sustain its defensible space properties, your landscape and plants must be maintained because they provide resistance to insects and diseases, resulting in less dead materials and a higher resistance to the rapid spread of a fire.

Routine maintenance of your landscaping should include:

- _____ Annual plants that have gone to seed or have dried out stems have been removed.
- _____ Mulch has been used to conserve moisture and reduce weed growth. *Please note: Mulch can be organic (such as wood chips) or inorganic (gravel or rock). Avoid pine bark, thick layers of pine needles or other materials that can easily catch fire.*
- _____ All leaf litter, plant clippings, and other debris have been removed from your property.
- _____ All trees have been inspected for dead limbs or limbs lower than 8 feet from the ground and removed. (at least twice per year)
- _____ Shrubs are properly thinned and pruned.
- _____ The roof and gutters are clear of leaves, pine needles, and other debris.
- _____ Branches overhanging the roof and chimney have been removed.
- _____ Grass and weeds are mowed to a low height.
- _____ The driveway is clear of branches and other debris.
- _____ The attic, roof, eaves and foundation vents are screened and in good condition. Stilt foundations and decks are enclosed, screened or walled up.
- _____ Firewood is stacked at least 30 feet from any structure.
- _____ The lawn and shrubbery has been regularly watered.
- _____ Chimney screens are in place and in good condition.
- _____ An emergency water supply is available.
- _____ Fire extinguishers are checked and in working order.
- _____ Road signs and house numbers are posted and easily visible.
- _____ An easily accessible tool storage area contains rakes, hoes, axes and shovels for use in case of fire.